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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. BMA-005

#871104  
4/8/03  
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APR 0 2 2003  
TC 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Laugharn *et al.*  
SERIAL NO.: 09/830,473 GROUP NO.: 1723  
FILING DATE: April 27, 2001 EXAMINER: Soohoo  
TITLE: Apparatus and Method for Controlling Sonic Treatment

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**  
**TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 26, 2002. A petition and appropriate fee for a five-month extension of time, up to and including Wednesday, March 26, 2003, are submitted herewith.

/ **AMENDMENT**

Please cancel claims 3, 8-16, 19-22, 31, 34, 36-38, and 40-42 without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue their subject matter in this application or in a related application.

Please amend claims 28-30, 32, 33, and 39 to read as follows.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 27 comprising the steps of sensing at least one condition to which the sample is subjected during processing and altering at least one of the sonic energy and the location of the sample in response to the at least one condition.
29. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein during the sensing step, the at least one condition is a mechanical occurrence.
30. (Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein during the altering step, intensity of the sonic energy is altered.